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ROBERT SCOTT TROUP

1874—1939

THE death of Professor Robert Scott Troup has brought to an end the life of perhaps one of the greatest figures amongst modern forestry experts, both within and outside the Empire.

As a silviculturist, using the word in its widest significance, he was pre-eminent; for the foundations which he laid on the fragmentary beginnings of this study in India and Burma have been responsible for the great position which this important branch of forestry science has attained. It is perhaps too soon to make it possible to state the influence which these studies in tropical and sub-tropical forests of large extent have already had upon great forest regions situated in similar climatic conditions in other parts of the World.

But from papers read at the first two International Forestry Conferences which have been held (Rome 1926 and Budapest 1936), at which the writer was associated with Professor Troup, it was apparent that India still occupied a place in the van by herself, and Troup was a recognized leader.

His most important contribution to the study was his great book, in three volumes, *The Silviculture of Indian Trees*, published in 1921. This was the result of several years intensive research work based on the Forest Research Institute at Dehra Dun and at provincial research stations, combined with investigations and observations carried out by himself in many parts of the country. Scattered information on this most important side of the forester's work existed in various publications and Government Reports and Memoranda, notably in the *Indian Forester* and its *Appendix Series*—observations recorded by such well known early Indian foresters as Sir Dietrich Brandis, F.R.S.,

Sir William Schlich, F.R.S., J. S. Gamble, F.R.S., B. Ribbentrop, a shrewd observer in Burma and elsewhere and a former Inspector-General of Forests, and Sir Sainthill Eardley-Wilmot, in his time and day a sound silviculturist, also a former Inspector-General of Forests. This sporadic work might easily have been lost had not a man of Troup's mentality, common sense and true Scottish caution, allied to a keen brain, appeared at the juncture.

Troup was educated at the Gymnasium Grammar School and Aberdeen University. He passed the competitive Forestry examination into Cooper's Hill in 1894, and after a brilliant career at the College he was posted to Burma in 1897.

His early work as a divisional forest officer in Burma attracted attention and on the formation of the Imperial Forest Research Institute at Dehra Dun, inaugurated by Lord Curzon when Viceroy, Troup was appointed one of the research officers, being given the post of Forest Economist.

Two years later he was transferred as silviculturist, the research post in which he was destined to make his name. In 1915 he was selected to act as Assistant Inspector of Forests at the Government of India's headquarters, and on the formation of the Munitions Board in 1917, under Sir Thomas Holland, he also held the post of War Controller of Timber Supplies.

In 1920 Troup followed Sir William Schlich as the head of the School of Forestry at Oxford and was nominated Professor of Forestry to the newly established Chair and elected a Fellow of St John's College. Under the auspices of the late Lord Lovat, Chairman of the Forestry Commission, the Imperial Forestry Institute came into being at Oxford in 1924 and Troup was appointed Director, filling the post till 1935. To some extent his interest was now turned from India towards the Colonies. He attended the Empire Forestry Conferences in Canada, Australia and South Africa, visited East Africa and acted in an advisory capacity in several ways to the Colonial Office.

Troup wrote fluently on professional subjects. Noteworthy are his *A Note on some Empire Silviculture Systems with suggestions*

for Improvements in Indian Forestry Management, Sylviculture Systems (1928), and *Forestry and State Control* (1938).

Troup was a fine type of what the Empire Forester should aim at, a keen observer of jungle lore and a good big game shot. Active and vigorous, he was often to be found of an afternoon skating on the ice rink at Oxford, until it was recently closed.

In 1926 he was elected F.R.S. He received the C.I.E. and C.M.G. and was also a D.Sc. of Oxford.

He is survived by his wife and two sons and a daughter.

E. P. STEBBING